# **Placement Disruptions Among Foster Children**

# **Kathryn Evans**

### **University of Kentucky**

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My final case sample was comprised of twenty- eight females and twenty-two males. Out of the fifty children, four children were African-American, nine were Biracial, thirty-five were Caucasian, and two were Hispanic. Twenty-six of the children were between the ages of two and five, fourteen were between the ages of six and nine, and ten children were between the ages of ten and twelve.

In my categorical analysis, it was discovered that 50% (13) children between the age of two and five experienced a planned move, such as placement with a relative, sibling or adoptive family. Only 14.3% (2) children between the ages of six and nine experienced a placement move due to a planned move, while 30% (3) children between the ages of ten and twelve experienced a planned foster care placement move. Although my largest age category of children was between the ages of two and five, this category experienced the most planned moves, after already residing in foster care for at least thirty days. The statistical significance for the two category comparisons was .073, showing marginal significance.

It was curious to note why so many of the younger children experienced planned moves compared to the older children. My rationale for this difference was that many of these younger children were being placed in adoptive homes. Unfortunately, younger children are more likely to move into adoptive homes, compared to children who are older, my thoughts are because many of the older children have experienced and

witnessed more abuse and adversity in their lives-which may consequently affect adoptive parents choices of permanent placements.

Out of this category, 50% (14) females experienced planned moves, while only 18.2% (2) males experienced planned moves. The statistical significance with these two categories was .020, resulting in statistical significance. Females in foster care are more likely to experience planned moves, in comparison to males. This finding was not surprising.

In exploring the relationship between the child's behaviors, and whether or not the next placement was more restrictive, 14.3% (4) females out of a sample of twenty-eight females, moved to a more restrictive setting at the time of the disruption. However, 50% (11) of males out of twenty-two moved to a more restrictive setting. The statistical significance in the two category comparisons was .006 showing strong statistical significance.

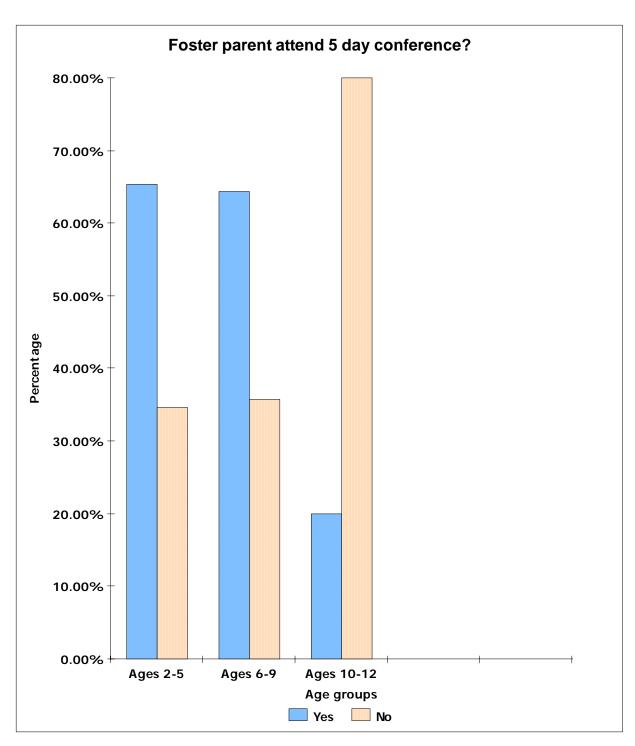
By nature, males tend to be more physically aggressive. My thoughts for the reason why a higher number of males were placed in a more restrictive setting pertains to their behaviors. If the males are acting out in the foster home, and becoming aggressive, it is more likely they would be placed in an environment where the behaviors can be controlled, in a therapeutic manner.

Interestingly, one of my questions pertained to whether or not the child was receiving mental health services at the time of the placement disruption and there was no statistical significance in comparison between males and females. It is curious to wonder if foster parents are more apt to withstand and provide support services to females who

display maladaptive behaviors as opposed to sending them to a more restrictive setting, in comparison to males who have maladaptive behaviors.

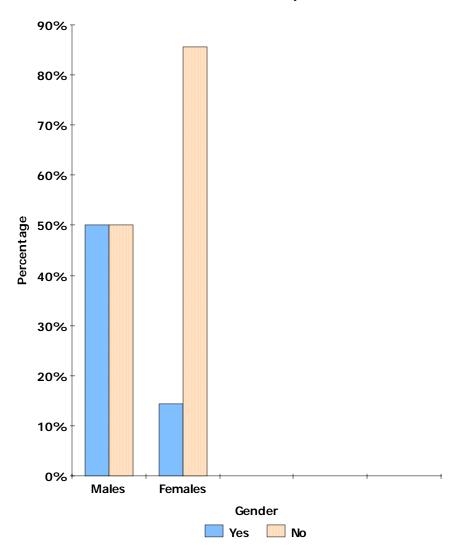
One of the questions pertained to a visitation contract being in place at the time of the child's disruption. It is very interesting to note, that 90% (20) of the males reviewed in this project, had a visitation contract in place with either a parent or relative, while 50% (14) of females were visiting with a parent or relative. The statistical significance of the two categories was .002. One would question if the child's reactions to the visits with the parents, had an impact on their behaviors when comparing the number of males who move into more restrictive care following the first placement.

An area pertaining to foster parent issues was explored when noting whether or not the foster parent attended the child's five-day conference. The five-day conference is held to create a case plan and goals for the child in care. There was not a significant finding when comparing males and females. However, for children between the ages of two and five, 65.4% (17) the foster parent attended the five-day conference. Children between the ages of six and nine, 64.3% (9) foster parents attended the five-day conference, when compared to children 10 through 12, only 20.2% (2) foster parents attended the five-day conference. The statistical significance was .037. Again, like the planned moves, through these findings it appears that foster parents of younger children, are more invested in the child's future.



Approximately 65.4% of foster parents for children between the ages of 2-5, attended the child's five day conference whereas only 20% of foster parents for children age 10-12 attended the five-day conference. A statistical significance of .037.

# Move to more restrictive placement?



Approximately 50% of males moved to a more restrictive placement following the disruption, whereas only 14.3% of females did not move to a more restrictive setting. Statistical significance of .006

# **Planned moves 90.00%** T 80.00% 70.00% 60.00% Percentage 50.00% 40.00% 30.00% 20.00% 10.00% 0.00% Males **Females** Gender Yes No No

Only 18.2% of males experienced a planned move, whereas 50% of females moved after at least thirty days in placement due to a planned move. A statistical significance of .02